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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, we thank You for Your gifts to us. You have given us peace during life's storms and comfort for our pain. You have given us strength for our present duties and courage to face future challenges. Lord, You have given us redemption that frees us from guilt and grateful love that keeps us walking on the right road. You help us find encouragement through friendships. You illuminate our darkness with the light of Your word.

Strengthen our Senators for today's journey. Let Your power pilot them, Your wisdom instruct them, Your hand protect them, and Your word direct them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today there will be a period for morning business for only 30 minutes. Senators are allowed to speak for 10 minutes each during this time. At 10:30, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 761, the America COMPETES Act. During today's session, consideration of the bill is limited to debate only. No amendments will be in order.

Our managers, Senators BINGAMAN and ALEXANDER, are expected to be here at 10:30. The distinguished Republican leader and I will give our opening statements on the bill, and that will be followed by the two managers of this legislation.

As I previously announced, there are no rollcall votes today or on Monday, but on Monday we expect amendments to this bill. We hope people who believe it can be improved will offer amendments. There are no rollcall votes on Monday, as I have indicated, so that any amendments offered to this bill would occur Tuesday. I would like to complete those votes prior to the conference recess period, which starts at 12:30 on Tuesday.

Next week, the House will send to us the conference report on the supplemental appropriations bill. We hope to get that on Tuesday or Wednesday. I will continue to discuss Senate consid-

eration of this matter with the Republican leader.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Colorado.

COLUMBINE ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, my wife Joan and I were horrified at the violence and bloodshed at Virginia Tech on Monday.

I was already preparing to come to the floor today to speak on another tragedy. Today marks the eighth anniversary of the Columbine murders. Next Thursday, it will be 7 months since the shooting at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, CO. April has become a month of awful memories, a month of terrible reminders of the presence of evil and the ability of lost souls to stray far into the darkness.

I stood on this floor in April 1999 to express my shock and dismay at what had happened in Littleton. I offered my condolences to all those who lost loved ones, and to those whose loved ones have been wounded, hurt, and terrified. Today I remember them again, but I also must add sympathy and support for those at Virginia Tech.

Words cannot adequately convey the deep sense of loss all of us are feeling over this tragedy. But words—these words, and the words of our prayers—are what we have to offer.

Yet again, America is in shock.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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